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than an exposition of the approved practice of the present day. The next six chapters discuss the reduction and adjustment of a triangulation system. There are presented, successively, the spherical trigonometry involved, a discussion of the earth ellipsoid, the solution of an individual triangle, the adjustment of a chain of triangles, discussions of the rectangular and geographical systems of coordinates, and the calculation of the geographical coordinates of a triangulation net. In Chapter 8 is given a summary of the Prussian net, accompanied by a map.

The first seven chapters of the second volume continue the mathematical discussion. There are presented, successively, the geodetic line, the normal form, mathematical formulæ, projection after Gauss, transverse coordinates, the conical projection of the sphere and the spheroid, and the general properties of a geodetic triangle. The remaining two chapters, which occupy less than one third of Vol. II, cover the determination of elevations and the filling in of the topography.

JAMES GORDON STEESE.

**Astronomy.** By George F. Chambers. xxiii and 335 pp. Ills., index. D. Van Nostrand Co., New York, 1914. \$1.50. 6½ x 4½.

The sixth work on astronomy by Mr. Chambers, who is, however, a lawyer—astronomy being his avocation. The book is for the many who would not make a serious study of astronomy, however impressed with the splendor of the heavens. This outline of leading facts will greatly assist such readers; and though they may possess only a smattering of scientific knowledge, it will answer many questions, stimulate intelligent interest, and help inquirers to use, with profit and enjoyment, a small telescope or even an opera glass. The volume, though small enough to carry in a coat pocket, is remarkably rich in helpful illustrations, most of which are not in general circulation. Mathematical matters are kept in the background. The work first treats of the scope of astronomical science, and discusses in the succeeding chapters the sun, moon, tides, climates, eclipses, comets, shooting stars, stars, groups of stars and nebulae, the constellations, telescopes, time and its measurement, the spectro-scope, and, in the appendices, statistics relating to planets and their satellites and a catalogue of celestial objects that may easily be studied through small telescopes.

## GEOMORPHOLOGY

**Principles of Stratigraphy.** By A. W. Grabau. xxxii and 1150 pp. Ills., index. A. G. Seiler & Co., New York, 1913. \$7.50. 9½ x 6.

Written for professional geologists and technical students, this massive treatise contains a large fund of valuable information, much of which had previously been difficult of access. The labor of collecting this material has evidently required years of painstaking endeavor, and the author himself has made important contributions from his own studies.

The introductory chapter supplies a general view of the facts and theories about the earth's divisions and general conditions, as well as a discussion of the several parts of geologic science. It is followed by seven large sections dealing with the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, pyrosphere, centosphere, biosphere and classification of geologic formations. Nearly half of the book is devoted to the lithosphere, but the hydrosphere and biosphere also receive extended treatment. The eight sections comprise thirty-two chapters, which deal with such topics as "The composition and physical character of the hydrosphere," "Classification of the rocks of the earth's crust," "Structural characters and lithogenesis of the marine hydroclastics," etc. Each chapter contains a description of conditions and sketches of the conclusions reached by the more important students of the respective fields. Most of the chapters on sedimentation include interesting comparisons of ancient and modern sediments, and each closes with a selected bibliography of the subject.

As the headings indicate, a wider field is surveyed than most stratigraphers would probably deem necessary under the caption of the book. The author has apparently thought it best to include a brief discussion of all phases of geology that ought to be a part of the mental equipment of a stratigrapher.